

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 27, 2020

“When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.” (Luke 2:39)

On today’s Feast of the Holy Family, it is right and good that we should reflect upon the importance of the family. We have done this in years past; which now affords me the benefit to take this opportunity to focus our attention upon another topic concerning the life of our Lord. Today, we will reflect upon the life of Jesus within the home at Nazareth. This time period has often been referred to as the Divine Infancy.

Let us begin with a question - “Why Nazareth?” For the Holy Family to reside in Nazareth, one might think Nazareth to be a desirable village; a place where the influential and powerful had a second residence. Actually, this thought would be contrary to the truth. Nazareth was an insignificant village. It is neither mentioned in the Old Testament or by the early historian, Josephus. This allowed its inhabitants to live in relative obscurity. Furthermore, it was seen as a contemptible village - “*Can anything good come from Nazareth?*” (John 1:46). Throughout His public life and ministry, Jesus would experience prejudice, mockery, and insults due to fact that His parents chose to raise Him in the village of Nazareth.

Dear family, a valuable lesson can be learned by reflecting upon Jesus living in Nazareth. We learn a little more concerning the virtue of humility. People can develop an undue amount of pride concerning their place of birth. Others can swell with pride when discussing how they grew up (who their parents were, their last name, what they had as children, etc.). By Jesus choosing to be raised in Nazareth, He shows us the foolishness of this undue pride. Nor, should we look at others through the prejudicial lens of their own residence. Our value, our dignity should never be based upon any of these superficial things. It should rest solely upon one fact - I am Loved; for I am Worth Loving. It is God who freely loves us without limiting that love to a particular set of conditions. He loves us because we are. Not who we are, but the fact that we are. Today and every day, respond to this great and humble love by choosing to do what He asks as a return to God’s love.